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FOR THE CNRM AND NGOs:

REPORT ON A TRIP TO BRAZIL

MARCH 28, TO APRIL 7, 1993

"O GESTO DE MAIOR SOLIDARIEDADE É O DESEJO DE QUE O SILÊNCIO SOBRE TIMOR-LESTE NÃO SE TORNE DEFINITIVO." PEDRO PYRRAIT In "*V Festival de Música Popular Portuguesa*", *Amadora-Portugal, Junho 1992.*

"IF YOU ASK ME TO BE SILENT, I WON'T - NOT EVEN FOR ONE MINUTE" FERNANDO SYLVAN

BY: *ESTÊVÃO CABRAL*

BRASILIA, MARCH 21 TO 28.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, (MORNING)

I met Júlio Geiger (Assessoria do Senado). Contact provided by Francis McDonald from CIIR.

OUTCOME

1. He gave me telephone numbers for two MPs but I was not be able to contact them.

2. He put me in touch with Agostinho Veit (Director of Movimento Nacional do Direitos Humanos (MNDH) - that is, the body which oversees a large number of solidarity groups and NGOs concerned with human rights).

AFTERNOON

I met with Lauriz Cerqueira (person responsible for the Foreign Affairs of the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) in the Câmara dos Deputados). Contact provided by Dr Izabel Magalhães, lecturer at the University of Brasília.

Cerqueira introduced me to Luiz Gushiken (Deputado Federal) at the Câmara dos Deputados (Congress). Gushiken deals with Foreign Affairs on behalf of the PT.

OUTCOME

I drafted a motion with Gushiken. The contents were as follows:

1. The PT welcomes the fact that Brazílian Government co-sponsored a motion at the UN Sub-Commission on human rights violations by Indonesian military in East Timor.

2. The PT asks the government to maintain this position in the future.

3. The PT asks the government to express concern about the continuing human rights violations in East Timor.

4. The PT also calls for effective support from the Brazílian government for the Portuguese government in working for the self-determination and independence of the people of East Timor.

The motion is to be presented in the Brazilian Congress.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24.

I met with Agostinho Veit.

OUTCOME: He said that he would do two things:

1. He would send around a letter to all those people I have contacted in Brasília asking them for support.

2. He would look into the possibility of establishing a solidarity group in Brasília to lobby on behalf of East Timor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25.

I met with Eduardo Suplicy (Senador Federal do PT). I was introduced to Suplicy by Célia Ladeira, a lecturer from the Department of Communications at the University of Brasília who is also a journalist of some standing.

OUTCOME

1. Senador Suplicy said that he would deliver a message of thanks to the Government for co-sponsoring the motion in Geneva.

2. He said he would try and ensure that the Brazilian Government would support Portuguese diplomatic efforts.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

I gave a talk at the University of Brasilia. This was jointly organised by the Núcleo de Estudos para a Paz and the Centro de Intercambio e Programas Internacionais. The title of my talk was `A Situacao do Timor Leste e a Solidariedade Internacional'. I also showed the film In Cold Blood.

FRIDAY EVENING

I went to the Sindicato dos Journalistas to a launch of their most recent publication. There I met several journalists and exchanged addresses with them.

Earlier in the week, I was interviewed by Célia Ladeira who is also a member of the Sindicato. The article will either appear in the newsletter of the Sindicato or in the mainstream press.

SÃO PAULO, TUESDAY, MARCH 30.

I met with Frei Joao Xerri and Lilia Azevedo in São Paulo (this was a contact made through Francis McDonald, CIIR). Frei João is a Dominican priest who is based in the southern Brazilian of Curitiba but who also coordinates the "Grupo Solidário São Domingos" in São Paulo. This NGO does solidarity work primarily in the Americas: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti etc...

OUTCOME:

1. Frei João put me in touch with two Catholic Magazines (produced monthly): Sem Fronteiras and Muito Mais. I was interviewed by both magazines and articles will appear shortly giving an update on East Timor.

2. He also arranged a meeting with D. Paulo Evaristo Arns, the Archbishop of São Paulo.

3. Frei João then invited me to go to Curitiba the following week.

CAMPINAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

Talk in School of Education, Universidade Estadual de São Paulo em Campinas (UNICAMP).

The talk was organised by Dr James Maher, Dean of the School of Education. I showed the film: In Cold Blood and gave a short account of the history of East Timor. Dr Maher made a copy of the video for future use in UNICAMP.

Other Contacts

1. I tried to get in touch with Marco Aurélio Garcia, who is an assessor for the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) and the person responsible for International Relations. This was another contact suggested by Francis McDonald. Marco Aurélio teaches History part time in UNICAMP as well as working in the Diretório Nacional do PT in São Paulo. Unfortunately, he was in a meeting but I spoke to a colleague of his, Dr Robert Slenes who said Marco Aurélio had been informed about my visit.

I also tried to contact the Comissão de Paz e Justiça in São Paulo, but unfortunately, Margarida Genevoix was away for four months.

SÃO PAULO, SATURDAY, APRIL 3.

1. Meeting with D. Paulo E. Arns. I met with D. Paulo Arns at his residence and raised three points with him:

a. I thanked him for the support already shown for the church in East Timor and Bishop Belo in particular.

b. I asked him to keep up this solidarity as the church in East Timor faces continuing harassment from the Indonesian military. I also asked him to write a letter to the Indonesian authorities and to the UN showing concern about the personal security of Bishop Belo and the Catholic priests in East Timor.

c. I asked him to ask for protection for all political prisoners and for Xanana Gusmão in particular. (At that time I had not yet

heard about Ma-Huno's arrest - I was to learn about this three days later).

OUTCOME

a. He will write a letter as requested.

b. He put me in touch with Dr Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (a close friend of his and Director of the Núcleo de Estudos da Violência at the University of São Paulo (USP). Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro keeps regular contact with Fernando Henrique Cardoso - the current Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs and a former academic colleague. D. Paulo Arns indicated that Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro could deal with the request for protection for political prisoners along with the Comissão de Paz e Justiça.

2. Interview with journalist from Muito Mais

The journalist had rather little background on East Timor. So this was a long interview. Over a hour.

3. Participation in a one hour radio programme on Rádio Globo (São Paulo) - Central Brasileira de Noticias (CBN). The programme was called 'O Mundo de Hoje' and it went out live at 2.00 on April 3.

CURITIBA, PARANÁ, APRIL 4 - TUESDAY APRIL 6.

I followed up Frei João Xerri's invitation and went to Curitiba on Sunday, April 4. I was given general hospitality by Frei João and his colleague Frei António.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

1. Introductory meeting at the University Popular do Trabalho, (UPT). There Frei João introduced me to the following people:

* Laércio Souto Maior (Coordenador Geral da UPT - Laércio knows a good deal about East Timor. He wrote an article in the local press on the struggle of the people of East Timor in the mid 1980s).

* Agostinho Bukovski (Sub-Coordenador da UPT);

* Benedito Ribeiro - UPT journalist and teacher in the area of Communications;

* Jane Soares - a sociologist (responsible for international affairs at UPT).

NOTE: None of them are affiliated to any political party.

* Nilo Sobral Ramos - (the PT liaison officer at UPT).

We had a brief meeting about what I wanted to achieve during my visit to Curitiba. I indicated that my first aim was to build contacts for the Conselho Nacional da Resistência Maubere (CNRM) with people who were concerned about East Timor.

We worked out a programme of activities accordingly.

2. Meeting at Secretaria do Trabalho e Ação Social

I met with the following people:

* Claudio de Azevedo (Assessor da Imprensa);

* Esmael Alves de Moraes (President of Associação Paranadense dos Estudantes Secundários);

* Elza Maria Campos (Leader of Partido Comunista do Brasil for the State of Paraná);

* Gracialino Dias (Regional President of the Partido Socialista Brasileiro and member of Diretorio Nacional);

* Aloize Gogola (Coordenador for Labour Relations, Secretaria do Trabalho).

At this meeting, I gave a brief account of the history of East Timor and the current situation.

OUTCOME

All those present said they would send letters to the Indonesian Embassy in Brazil and to the UN protesting about the human rights situation in East Timor and demanding immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops.

3. Meeting at Portuguese Consulate, Curitiba

There, I met with Dr Ana Zacarias, the new Portuguese Consul (recently arrived from Washington). She told me about Ma-Huno's arrest. I immediately phoned Tapol in London from her office to ask for details of the arrest. I told Dr Zacarias that, Ma-Huno's arrest was a severe setback for the Timorese Resistance movement but I assured her that the struggle against the Indonesian occupation would continue with the same level of determination.

4. Talk at the Dominican church

This was organised by Frei João for members of his congregation and local people. I showed the film In Cold Blood and a Portuguese translation/commentary was provided by Frei João. I made some brief comments about the current situation, then Dr Ana Zacarias, the Portuguese Consul, said a few words, focusing on

developments in the international arena.

OUTCOME

Frei João plans to set up a local grassroots solidarity group. This would involve the participation of a local theatre group called "Explosao da Fé", coordinated by Ricardo Hoepers.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

1. Talk to Secondary School Students

Frei João had arranged for me to give a talk to two groups of students at the Colégio de Nossa Senhora do Rosario in Curitiba. One member of staff of the school, Edilson, was a former 'Seminarista'.

OUTCOME

Edilson plans to set up a small solidarity group in the school.

2. Interview with TV Educativa, for the State of Paraná.

On arrival in the Palace of Governor of Paraná, I was interviewed for the daily news programme and gave an outline of the current situation. The TV Educativa staff had been briefed the previous day about East Timor.

3. Meeting with Caito Quintana and Vitório Seriotuk

Quintana is the Deputy Chefe da Casa Civil do Governador and chief political advisor to Roberto Riccião, the governor of Paraná. Quintana and Riccião are both members of Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (PMDB), a centrist party long associated with opposition to military dictatorship in Brazil.

Vitório Seriotuk is principal legal advisor to the governor and much respected within Paraná for his work as a lawyer during the military regime, defending those who were arrested. He lived in exile for several years in Europe and therefore has an international perspective.

At this meeting, I gave a brief account of the situation in East Timor. I then asked if Quintana could arrange for the Governor to sign a letter I had drafted and send it to Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Minister for Foreign affairs in the Federal Government. The letter asked Cardoso to:

(a) Approach the Indonesian Embassy to ask for protection for Ma-Huno Bulere Karatayano and Xanana Gusmão and other political prisoners and to ask them to ensure that the Red Cross has access to them;

(b) To demand their immediate release, so that the peace negotiations can continue with the participation of the two former leaders.

OUTCOME

Quintana and Seriotuk undertook to pass the letter on to the Governor for his signature and to forward it to Cardoso.

After this meeting I was interviewed by the press officer of the Governor's Palace. He is in charge of disseminating information to the local press.

4. Meeting at UPT with local political leaders. (from Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT), Communist Party of Brazil (PCB) and Movimento Negro).

I gave a talk about the history of East Timor and a brief outline of the current situation.

OUTCOME

Laércio Souto Maior will be setting up a regional solidarity group and will liaise with grassroots groups. He wants to launch the group with a return visit in September of a or two members of CNRM.

SÃO PAULO, APRIL 7.

1. Meeting with Dr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro.

Dr Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro is the director of the Núcleo de Estudos da Violência at the University of São Paulo (USP).

Dr Pinheiro is clearly well acquainted with the situation in East Timor and very committed to providing support. This is a crucial contact since he is close to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fernando Henrique Cardoso and meets with him regularly.

I raised five points at this meeting which I asked him to pass on to the Minister.

1. I asked him to convey thanks to the Brazilian Government for co-sponsoring the motion passed at the UN Sub-Commission for Human Rights in Geneva in March 1993.

2. I indicated that the Timorese would welcome it if the Brazilian Government maintained this firm position on East Timor and supported Portuguese diplomatic efforts.

3. I suggested that he might ask the Minister to consider setting up a Parliamentary Group on East Timor and to follow this up with a visit to East Timor.

4. I also pointed out that the Brazilian Government could put pressure on the Indonesian Government to come up with concrete ideas for the next round of peace negotiations in Rome.

5. I asked Pinheiro to urge Cardoso to approach Boutros Ghali to ask him to secure protection for Ma-Huno and Xanana Gusmão and other Timorese prisoners and to communicate the concerns of the Brazilian Government about the violation of the rights of these prisoners.

OUTCOME

Dr Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro immediately drafted a letter to the Minister and gave me a copy (a copy is enclosed with this report). He will follow this up in a meeting with the Minister on April 14.

Dr Pinheiro also said that the Brazilian Ambassador to Portugal is a personal friend of his. He suggested that we should approach the Ambassador and mention his name. Pinheiro said he would also contact him personally. He said he was likely to be sympathetic to the East Timor case.

While I was at the Núcleo de Estudos da Violência, I took the opportunity to send a fax to Agostinho Veit in Brasília, the director of the Movimento Nacional dos Direitos Humanos. Before leaving Brasília I gave him a complete list of all the contacts I made in Brasília. In my fax on 7/4/93, I asked him to draft a letter to the Indonesian Embassy asking for protection for Ma-Huno, Xanana and other political prisoners, then to approach all contacts to ask them to sign the letter.

2. **Telephone interview with Claúdia Guimarães**. Claúdia Guimarães is the Sub-editor of Cadernos do Terceiro Mundo. This is an excellent monthly magazine (rather like South). It has regular coverage on East Timor. There is also a sister publication in Spanish which is produced in Montevideo, Uruguay. This is called Revista del Sur. Both are widely distributed in South America.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP TO THE TRIP:

1. Support needs to be provided to those who are most likely to set up solidarity groups. The kind of support they need is: (a) information/bulletins/campaigning materials like posters from CNRM and established Solidarity Groups. They would particularly welcome materials in Portuguese. Those who are likely to set up groups are: Laércio Souto Maior, Frei João, Agostinho Veit. Their addresses are:

Laércio Souto Maior
Universidade Popular do Trabalho
Rua Pastor Manoel Vergilio de Souza, 1310
Bairro Taruma - Curitiba 82500 Paraná-Brazil

Frei João Xerri
Grupo Solidário São Domingos
Rua Haddock Lobo, 1310
Apartamento 42,
01414-002 - São Paulo-SP-Brazil

Agostinho Veit
Movimento Nacional dos Direitos Humanos
SCS - Ed. Oscar Niemayer - Qd.2
BI D 10o andar - Sala 1001
CEP 70316-900-Brasília - DF-Brazil

2. Information/bulletins in Portuguese , English and French need to be sent to documentation centres such as:

Dr José Geraldo de Souza
Centro de Estudos para a Paz e de Direitos Humanos,
Ed. Multi-Usos I, Bl. A S/AT-35
Campus Universitário - UnB
70000-900 Brasília-DF-Brazil

Centro de Documentação da Editora Terceiro Mundo
Cadernos do Terceiro Mundo (monthly publication)
Rua da Glória, 22 - 1o andar - Glória - 20241 - 180
Rio de Janeiro, RJ-Brazil

Revista del Sur
Mercedes 1125
11100 Montevideo
Uruguay - Fax: 598 - 1 911206

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CIP - Universidade de Brasília
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The report above describes the contacts I was able to make (Except Comissao da Paz e Justica), in the time available. There

are other key contacts especially in Rio de Janeiro, that should either by post or in future visits.

3. To keep the momentum generated by this visit, CNRM needs to plan a return visit by one or two representatives. Dates suggested to me in Brazil were late August or September 1993.

The regional branch of the PT in the State of Paraná expressed wiliness to give partial funding for a return visit, later this year, by one or two members of CNRM. They could fund all travel within Paraná and arrange accommodation. They would arrange visits to 5 different cities in Paraná: Curitiba, Londrina, Maringa, Guarapuava (or Cascavel) and Iguaçú. Funds for travel to and from Brazil would have to be sought elsewhere.

I would be happy to help to plan the itinerary for this trip and to set up meetings along the way with the contacts that I have made.

OTHER KEY ADDRESSES:

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Cadernos do Terceiro Mundo
Rua da Glória, 22 - 1o andar - Glória - 20241 - 180
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Cx Postal 55 - 06751 Toboão da Serra-SP
Editora Ave Maria - Rua Martim Francisco, 656
01226 - São Paulo - SP-Brazil

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Q1 03 Conj. 03 Casa 08 Lago Sul
71.600 Brasília - DF-Brazil

Larissa Bortoni/Paulo Miranda - journalists
SQN 111 Bloco J Apto 506
CEP 70.000 Brasilia-DF-Brazil

Senador Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy
Praça dos Três Poderes,
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Luiz Gushiken (Deputado Federal - PT)
Câmara dos Deputados - Anexo III - Gab 374
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70333-900 Brasilia-DF-Brazil

Célia Ladeira Mota - journalist/academic
Nova Colina Bloco F, Apto 505
Campus da UnB
CEP 70910-900-Brasilia-DF-Brazil

Dr James Maher (academic)
Avenida Jorge Tibirica, 1703
Jardim Oliveiras - Campinas - Brazil

Dr Robert Slenes (academic)
Rua Shigeo Mori, 1830
Bairro Barão Geraldo
13083 Campinas - Brazil

Partido Comunista do Brasil
Rua Major Diogo 834 - Bela-Vista
CEP 01324-000 São Paulo-SP-Brazil

Esmael Alves de Moraes (student leader)
Rua André de Barros, 26 - Casa 6
CEP 80010.000 - Centro Curitiba -PR-Brazil

Elza Maria Campos (Leader PCB State of Paraná)
Rua Marechal Deodoro - 252 - 1o andar
CEP 80.020-908 -Curitba-PR-Brazil

Gracialino Diaz (Pres. Regi. Part. Soc. Bras.)
Rua Pedro Guerra, 4.300 B1 09 Apto 22
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Aldize Gogola (Coordenador de Relação do Trabalho)
Rua Augusto Muller, 81
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Copies of this report are being sent to FRETILIN and UDT in Portugal.

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